MARVEL

15

REMENDER
MEDINA
DECASTRO
MOSSA

VENOM®

ENTER: THE SECRET AVENGERS

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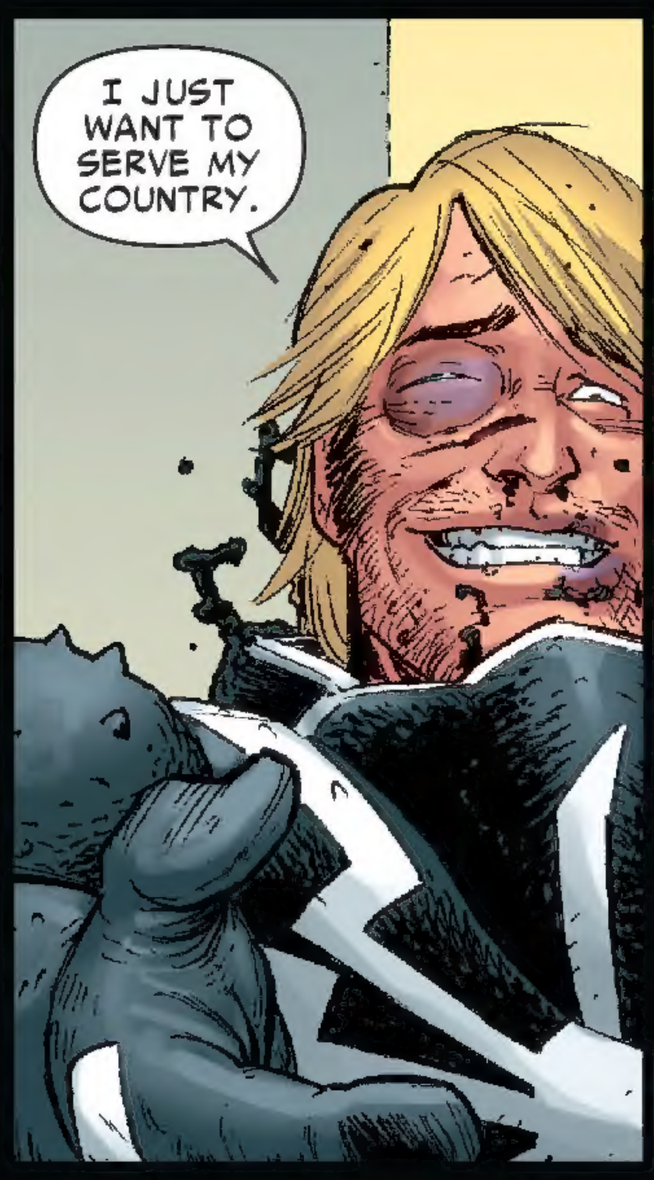
Eugene "Flash" Thompson was a high-school-bully-turned-war hero, inspired by the Amazing Spider-Man to get his act together. When he lost both legs in combat, his country gave him a chance to serve again, bonding him with the Alien Parasite suit that grants its host powers similar to Spider-Man. From that day on, he was agent...

VENOM

PREVIOUSLY...

AGENT VENOM, YOU'RE COMING WITH US.
AVENGERS, TAKE HIM--
WHOA-WHOA-WHOA-- NO. YOU GOT THE KID ALL WRONG, CAP.
HE SAVED THE DAY, SHOWED REAL GRAVEL. HE'S A HERO.

WE COULD, UH...MAYBE WE COULD HELP MAKE SURE THE SYMBIOTE STAYS DORMANT.
WE COULD POTENTIALLY SHUT OFF THE SYNAPTIC COUPLING CENTER...



But Flash Thompson faces trials back home that Agent Venom can't save him from – Betty Brant, the woman he left behind without reason, and a mother and sister who had no son to lean on when his father passed on...

HOME AGAIN

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HYBRID.

EXTRACTED FROM VENOM BY A BAND OF CORPORATE SURVIVALISTS.

BONDED TO ONE SCOTT WASHINGTON.

CHK

SCOTT'S BEEN USING HYBRID TO SUPPRESS CRIME IN HIS NEIGHBORHOOD.

DONE A FAIR JOB.

BUT THE DEMON WILL TURN.

THWUPP

WILL BECOME ANOTHER SPORE.

WHEN THE TIME COMES IT WILL SPAWN.

WHAT THE HE--

I HELPED SPREAD THIS ALIEN PLAGUE.

SKKRKEEEEEEEEEE

BUT I KNOW NOW.

AND I KNOW THE CURE.

KRUCHH

YERGH--!

YOU PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT.

SHOWED REAL HEART.

THAT THING IS BONDED TO YOU AND I DON'T KNOW ANY GOOD WAY TO UNDO THAT.

BROCK? WHAT THE--?

WELL, THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY TRUE...

NO! PLEASE, EDDIE! I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT--

I DON'T WANT ANY OF THIS, SCOTT.

BRAK-BRAK-BRAK-BRAK-

GHAKK--

FFFSHHHH

YERAGHH!

KAKK D-DON'T...

D-DESERVE... THIS...

NONE OF US DO.

IT'S EITHER YOU NOW...

"...OR THE ENTIRE PLANET LATER."

SO, YES, I THINK WITH THIS THE VENOM SYMBIOTE WILL BE AS SAFE AS ANY OTHER ARMOR OR MAGIC RELIC OR RADIOACTIVE NIPPLE LASERS OR WHATEVER THE REST OF US USE.

The Lighthouse Space Station.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE SECRET AVENGERS.

RADIOACTIVE NIPPLE LASER MAN ISN'T AN AVENGER ANYMORE, *BEAST*. DON'T YOU READ THE NEWSLETTER?

THE GOVERNMENT SCIENTISTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NEURO-INHIBITOR THAT SUBDUES THE SYMBIOTE'S MIND WERE ONLY *HALF* WAY THERE, VALKYRIE.

ENOUGH. REASSURE US THAT THIS MONSTER CAN BE TRUSTED WITH OUR *LIVES* ON THE FIELD.

THE SERUM WAS MISSING A FEW COMPONENTS THAT DR. PYM AND I BELIEVE WILL OFFER A MORE... *COMPLETE* SUBDUING EFFECT.

CORPORAL THOMPSON WILL BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE SYMBIOTE WITHOUT IT PERMANENTLY BONDING TO HIM?

IT ALREADY HAS.

YES. WHEN IT'S NOT BEING USED FOR OFFICIAL AVENGERS BUSINESS IT STAYS HERE, UNDER MY CONTROL.

HANK, THE SYMBIOTE *PYMP*.

I'VE GOT ENEMIES.

I MIGHT NEED THIS THING IN A REAL HURRY ONE DAY.

HURTS TO BE AWAY.

YOU'RE AN AVENGER NOW, FLASH. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT SORT OF THING ALONE ANYMORE.

SURE. I *KNOW*.

BUT I'M WORRIED I'LL END UP IN AN *AWKWARD* SITUATION AND NOT HAVE THE SYMBIOTE WHEN I NEED IT.

NEED IT NOW.

BURNING IN MY CHEST.

I'M GIVING YOU A NUMBER, IN AN EMERGENCY YOU DIAL IT.

THE SYMBIOTE'S CONTAINMENT VESSEL WILL BE FLOODED WITH PYM PARTICLES, SHRUNK DOWN TO SUBATOMIC SIZE AND BROADCAST TO THE PHONE YOU'RE CALLING FROM.

SO I JUST CALL THIS NUMBER AND...

THE SYMBIOTE WILL EMERGE FROM THE EARPIECE.

THE TEMPORARY EFFECTS OF THE UNSTABLE PYM PARTICLES WILL BE NEGATED, AND YOU'LL HAVE YOUR SEDATED SYMBIOTE.

TEP TEP

ACT INDIFFERENT.

WE'LL MONITOR YOUR USAGE.

TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T ABUSE YOUR ACCESS TO THE SUIT.

WE NEED TO ENSURE YOU'RE NEVER BONDED TO IT.

YOU WERE WEARING THE SUIT WITH NO SEDATIVES FOR DAYS ON END.

BONDING TIME HAS VARIED BASED ON THE USER.

DO YOU FEEL ANY PHYSICAL OR MENTAL WITHDRAWALS?

SELL IT CALM.

LIKE I PRACTICED.

NO.

NOW THAT I'VE GOT THE HANG OF THESE PROSTHETIC LEGS, I'M DAMN GLAD TO BE RID OF THE THING FOR A WHILE.

YOU GOT LUCKY.

I'M GLAD THAT WE COULD MAKE THIS WORK.

TO BE ABLE TO TAKE SOMETHING THAT CAUSED SO MUCH PAIN AND USE IT FOR THE GOOD OF HUMANITY...

I KNOW YOU WON'T LET ME DOWN, CORPORAL.

NO, CAPTAIN, I WON'T.

COME. I WILL SEND YOU HOME.

'LOT RIDING ON THAT MAN.

YES. IF HE'S LYING...WE COULD HAVE A PROBLEM.

AND THEN THERE'S THE OTHER VERY REAL DILEMMA...

...ARE YOU GOING TO TELL SPIDER-MAN?

YOU EVER FEEL LIKE YOU'RE IN OVER YOUR HEAD?

LIKE YOU'RE BEING TRUSTED WITH MORE THAN YOU CAN POSSIBLY MANAGE?

LOOK ON THE UPSIDE, IF CAPTAIN AMERICA *IS* WRONG ABOUT YOU...

...YOU WILL BE ***DEAD*** VERY SOON AND WON'T HAVE TO WORRY.

AWESOME. VERY ENCOURAGING.

I'VE READ THE REPORTS. YOU'VE EARNED THIS, CORPORAL.

IT HAS BEEN AN INTERESTING COUPLE OF WEEKS.

MORE INTERESTING ALL THE TIME.

SUDDENLY I'M AN AVENGER, SHRUNK DOWN TO THE SIZE OF AN ANT, BEING SHOWN AROUND A TINY SPACE STATION BY A BEAUTIFUL ASGARDIAN GODDESS...

BEAUTIFUL?

WELL, NO.

I MEAN, YES. FOR SURE.

BUT, I WASN'T TRYING TO PICK YOU UP OR ANYTHING...

ONE THING IS TRUE OF ALL WOMEN BE THEY MORTAL OR GODDESS.

YOU NEED NOT APOLOGIZE AFTER CALLING ONE ***BEAUTIFUL.***

IT JUST...IT CAN SEEM SKEEVY.

ONLY IF YOU'RE TRYING TO GET ME INTO BED.

I'M SORRY, REALLY, I'D NEVER TRY...

I MEAN...

ARMY

MOMENTS AGO I WAS BEAUTIFUL.

OH, YOU ARE, I JUST...

ARMY

I APPRECIATE YOU LETTING ME DOWN EASY.

I'VE GOT A GIRLFRIEND.

OR I DID...WE MIGHT BE GETTING BACK TOGETHER.

NO, I WASN'T SAYING YOU WERE INTERESTED-- I WAS, IT'S JUST--

BANG BANG

FLASH?!

OPEN THE DOOR, BUDDY.

IT'S PETE.

BANG BANG

ARMY

LOOK, I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE.

YOUR LANDLADY SAID YOU HAVEN'T LEFT THE APARTMENT IN DAYS.

H-HEY, PETER.

SORRY, I WAS... IN THE SHOWER.

I THINK IT'S STRANGE THAT YOU SHOWER IN ALL OF YOUR CLOTHES AND THAT YOU DON'T GET YOUR HAIR WET.

WELL... YEAH... THAT IS STRANGE...

NO BOOZE.

WHEN'D YOU BECOME MY MOTHER, PARKER?

WHEN BETTY SHOWED UP AT MY HOUSE A FEW DAYS AGO, HYSTERICAL, IN TEARS.

SAID SHE'D BEEN STAYING WITH YOUR MOM, TO HELP CONSOLE HER. SAID YOU LEFT TOWN FOR *"WORK."*

SAID YOU CALLED HER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND BROKE UP WITH HER OVER THE *PHONE.*

SO SHE CALLED THE V.A.

YOUR SUPERVISOR?

NOBODY DOWN THERE'D EVER HEARD OF HIM.

AFTER DAD DIED... I STARTED DRINKING.

I GOT STONE DRUNK AND I STAYED THAT WAY.

ALL I REMEMBER OF THE PAST FEW WEEKS IS OCCASIONALLY WAKING UP, SCRAPING MYSELF UP OFF OF THE FLOOR AND SHUFFLING MYSELF OUT THE DOOR TO GET MORE WHISKEY.

YEAH. OKAY. C'MON...

"...LET'S GET SOME FRESH AIR."

SCREAM.

ANOTHER VENOM SPAWN.

THE HOST, DONNA DIEGO, IS A DELUSIONAL SCHIZOPHRENIC.

TRIED TO KILL ME ONCE UPON A TIME.

BAk

SMART AS A WHIP--HARD TO TRACK.

SO I BRING HER TO ME.

SHE'LL HAVE HEARD ABOUT HYBRID.

HEARD ABOUT THE OTHERS.

SHE'LL FOLLOW THE TRAIL I LEFT...

FOLLOW IT TO PURIFICATION.

THANKS FOR COMING, DONNA.

EASIER TO DO THIS HERE.

AGHEEEE--!

SSKRKEEE

SSKRKEEE

BUT WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

...WHY TAKE BETTY DOWN WITH YOU?

I BROKE UP WITH HER TO KEEP HER AWAY FROM ME, PETE.

TO *KEEP HER* FROM GOING DOWN WITH ME.

BETTY'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT, TOO.

THE WAY YOU HANDLED THIS... IT'S LIKE YOU'RE GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO MAKE IT WORSE.

YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO.

I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* YOU'RE TRYING TO DO.

HOW WOULD I?

LAST COUPLE MONTHS IT'S LIKE YOU'RE NOT EVEN HERE ANYMORE.

AND THIS IS COMING FROM THE *PRESIDENT* OF THE "*STRETCHED-TOO-THIN*" FAN CLUB.

IT'S COMPLICATED.

THEN TELL ME ABOUT IT.

WHAT I'M GOING TO TELL YOU...YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE STRONG OPINIONS, PETE.

YOU...YOU PROMISE TO KEEP IT BETWEEN US? NO MATTER WHAT.

I PROMISE.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN...

BREEP BREEP BREEP BREEP

IT'S MY SISTER.

I HAVE TO TAKE THIS.

Jessie

HEY, JESS.

YEAH, BEEN BACK FOR A FEW DAYS NOW.

I GOT... TIED UP.

I KNOW. YEAH.

I HAVE TO MAKE A LIVING, I COULDN'T JUST QUIT MY JOB.

I GET IT. I DO.

OKAY. ALL RIGHT. I'LL BE OVER THERE IN A BIT.

I HAVE TO GO SEE MY MOM. I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THE FUNERAL.

ANOTHER MESS I'VE MADE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

WE'LL CATCH UP LATER.

HEY, JESSE... MOM.

YOU'RE USING THE LEGS.

TAKING SOME TIME TO GET USED TO.

ON THE ROAD THE WHEELCHAIR WAS TOO MUCH OF A HASSLE.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I'M SORRY I HAD TO GO AWAY SO SOON AFTER THE FUNERAL.

I DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHOICE IN--

EUGENE, I LIVED WITH A LYING DRUNK FOR 46 YEARS, GOD REST HIS SOUL.

IF YOU CAN'T TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU, DON'T TELL ME ANYTHING.

I NEVER ASKED VERY MUCH OF YOU. BUT I'M TELLING YOU RIGHT NOW, IF YOU WANT A RELATIONSHIP WITH ME THERE'S *ONE RULE.*

NO MORE LYING.

TOLD HER I'D BEEN DRINKING.

TOLD HER I WAS BACK IN THE PROGRAM.

LOOKED HER IN THE FACE AND LIED.

NO OTHER WAY.

CAN'T TELL HER THE TRUTH.

TRUTH IS-- I PUT HER IN DANGER.

STILL IN DANGER.

CRIME MASTER...STILL OUT THERE.

HE AND JACK O' LANTERN--THE LAST PIECES OF MY MISTAKES.

LAST THING I HAVE TO SET RIGHT.

THEN I CAN START OVER.

WORK THE STEPS.

BE A HERO.

WORK THINGS OUT...

BETTY?

REMEMBER THIS TRIP TO ASPEN?

OF COURSE.

YOU TOLD ME SOME FRIEND HAD CANCELED ON YOU, STUCK YOU WITH A CHALET.

I KNEW YOU'D PLANNED IT TO GET US BACK TOGETHER.

YOU *USED TO BE* SO BAD AT LYING.

I REMEMBER THINKING THAT I SHOULDN'T GO.

SHOULDN'T GET BACK TOGETHER WITH YOU.

JUST SAVE MYSELF THE FUTURE HEARTBREAK.

BETTY--

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO ME.

YOU DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO TALK TO ME FACE-TO-FACE SO YOU DON'T GET TO TALK TO ME FACE-TO-FACE.

YOU GET TO LISTEN.

I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR FATHER.

I KNOW WHAT YOUR CHILDHOOD DID TO YOU, AND I KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T SHAKE IT.

GIVEN WHAT YOU GREW UP WITH IT'S AMAZING YOU CAME OUT AS WELL AS YOU DID.

BUT THE MAN YOU ARE ISN'T ENOUGH FOR ME.

SPENDING THE LAST WEEK WITH YOUR MOTHER--WHILE YOU WERE DRUNK IN A DITCH--OPENED MY EYES.

WHAT YOUR FATHER PUT HER THROUGH IS NOT GOING TO BE MY FUTURE.

SO YOU DON'T GET TO CALL AND BREAK UP WITH ME, FLASH.

BECAUSE IF YOU BREAK UP WITH ME IT MEANS AT SOME POINT YOU'RE GOING TO THINK YOU CAN COME AND WIN ME BACK.

I WON'T LIVE MY LIFE TRYING TO CHANGE AND FIX YOU.

I WANT TO MAKE THIS AS CLEAR AS I POSSIBLY CAN--

WE WON'T *EVER* BE GETTING BACK TOGETHER.

SLAM

BREEP BREEP

HELLO, DR. PYM. YEAH.

I'M READY FOR WORK.

YEAH, HOME LIFE IS GOOD...

"EVERYTHING'S EXACTLY HOW I LEFT IT."

SYMBIWROTE

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A-Venom-Gers Assemble, Symbi-Fans!

As you'll no-doubt note, in this issue we tipped our hats to the fact that our boy Flash is now one of Earth's Mightiest Heroes over in the (shhh!) SECRET AVENGERS, also written by our very own Rick Remender!

He made his official debut in that book in Secret Avengers #23, and you can pick up his ongoing adventures as one of Hawkeye's Not-to-be-messed-with Nonnet on-sale likely just down the rack from this very mag! In the months to come you'll be seeing the changes in Flash's life as a member of the Avengers – but even they won't be able to stop the SAVAGE SIX!

That's right, we are but a scant three issues away from Rick, Cullen and Lan's malevolent magnum opus of mayhem, so while they gear up for the grisly, Kev Walker (THUNDERBOLTS) stops by as guest artist in two weeks as Venom goes head-to-head with the Hobgoblin for the life of the Human Fly! Kev will be back for a most sinister SAVAGE SIX PROLOGUE – one where Eddie Brock's path of destruction takes aim at Venom AND the Crime Master! How big is SAVAGE SIX? Everytime I try to print a script, my computer crashes!

So it's a busy couple months for our boy Flash – this on the heels of the epic Circle of Four. Folks can't stop talking about Venom, Red Hulk, X-23 and Ghost Rider doing up Vegas – the reviews are in!

"The Circle of Four mini-event has been a rousing success…one of Marvel's best events in recent memory. It's a damn entertaining read from start to finish" ~IGN.com

"One major success…is that we don't need to know a single thing of what has come before to enjoy ourselves on this romp of a tale. The characters explain themselves easily, their motives are clear, and the team-up makes sense in the context of the narrative. It's… the sort of broad quest a variety of readers could get behind." ~ComicBookResources.com

"There is plenty of action and surprises that makes this arc begin on the right foot." ~ComicVine.com

"I was surprised to find that it all works within the confines of the story, and the story is a hell of a lot of FUN…This was a mad-cap romp, dammit. I don't care if you don't like Ghost Rider being a girl, or Hulks that are red. If you like romps that are mad-cappy, then by all means, get on this book." ~Aint It Cool News.

One of our stalwart fans also wanted to chime in:

Hi, Symbiwrote!

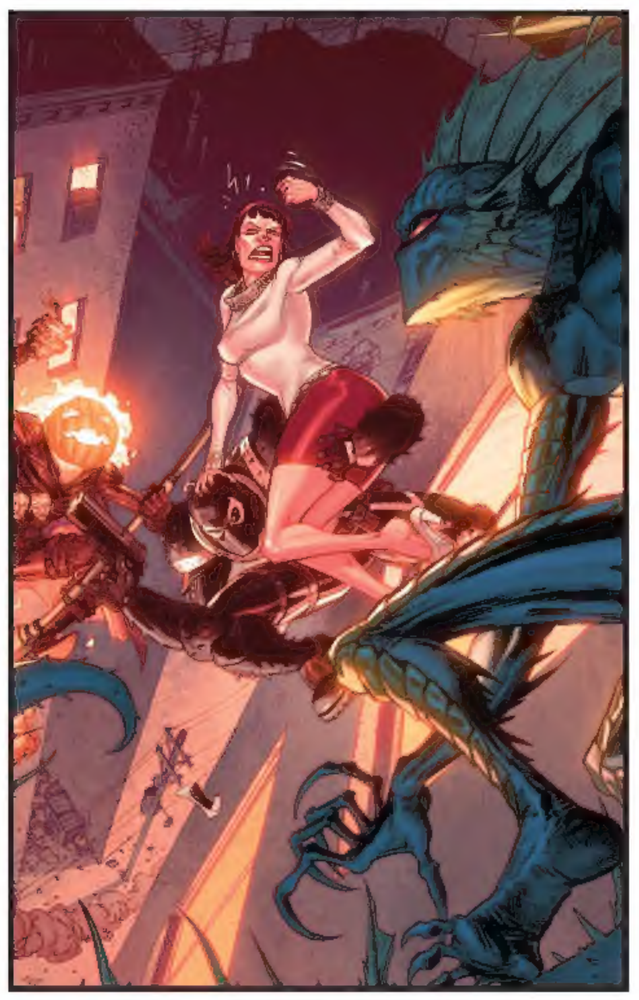
Wow. What a story. I just finished reading Venom 13.4 and I am just loving this arc. As a reader I never found myself interested in the Hulk or The Ghost Rider but Circle of Four introduced me to characters and themes that I don't typically see in the Marvel books I read. The story was engrossing and the art was always fantastic.

The character introduced in the last page of Venom 13.4 looks unbelievably cool and I can't wait to see it kick some demonic butt! I can't wait for the conclusion to this story and I certainly hope that Venom teams up with the Hulk, Ghost Rider, and X-23 in some future stories!

Dave McGuinness

Another big bag o'congrats to Rick, Jeff, Rob, Tony and the rest of the CIRCLE OF FOUR Gang!

And if you thought CIRCLE OF FOUR was intense, again, you ain't seen nothin' till you've seen the SAVAGE SIX! Check out these covers by Michael Del Mundo and Tony Moore!



That's all the room we have this time around, but please keep writing us at spideyoffice@marvel.com. As mentioned, next up, Venom, the Human Fly and the Hobgoblin trash the trains and wreak havoc across New York City, so sit down and strap in, and we'll see you in two weeks!

--Temerarious Tom

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